MMR_0018 William "Bill" Hewlett. PNR President in 1957 pictured below. (7th Div.)

PNR President William "Bill" Hewlett, pictured published December 1957 Bulletin

Master Model Railroader

H. D. CONNER (MMR #17)
Fort Worth, Texas

WM. H. HEWLETT (MMR #18)
Whitehorse, Yukon Terr., Canada

PLEASE READ BIO ON FOLLOWING PAGE

SUBMITTED BY GREG KENNELLY 05/22/2024

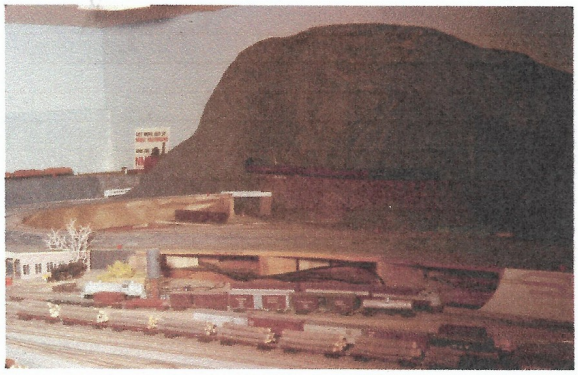
William Henry "Bill" HEWLETT, MMR #18
July 9, 1914 - February 27, 1968

Bill Hewlett was an avid model railroader and a huge fan of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, scratchbuilding models of many of the PGE's freight and passenger cars and numerous structures. The 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (Canada) currently holds a collection of approximately 300 of his slides of PGE subjects as well as an album of PGE-related black & white prints that he collected from various sources. He served as PNR president from September 1955 - September 1957 and was a member of the committee that organized the Totemland NMRA National Convention in Vancouver, August 26 - 29, 1965. His home layout in Nanaimo was the Cariboo Central Railway, featuring many structures and much equipment of the PGE but also running locomotives and cars painted and lettered for the Vanisle Pacific and the Pacific Norwest Railroad, and featured impressive trackwork - as did the layouts of other model railroaders with whom he shared his expertise.

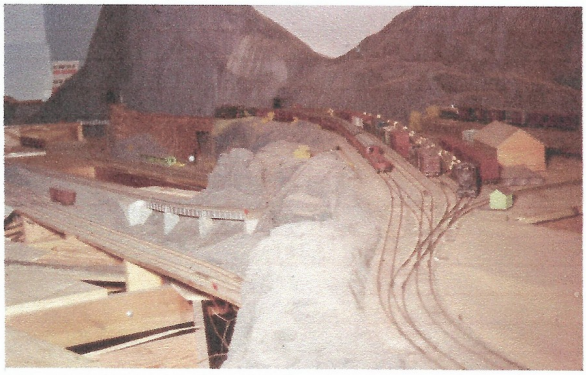
The "last run" of the Cariboo Central occurred in 1963 as a result of Bill moving to Mission, BC. He fully intended to build a new layout with emphasis on scale models of some PGE trackage arrangements but got sidetracked by a move to Whitehorse, Yukon mandated by his employer, Her Majesty's Postal Service. During his time in Whitehorse, he built some incredible bridge models based on Pacific Great Eastern prototypes that won awards at the 1964 PNR Convention in Portland, Oregon. Returning to the Nanaimo area in 1966 as Postmaster, he completed the last certificates required to qualify for the Master Model Railroader designation. Following his death, his widow donated much of his equipment and structures to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and they were displayed in the window of the Pender Street office for many years.

Bill earned the following certificates within the Achievement Program:
Master Builder - Cars, July 1963; Model Railroad Engineer - Civil, March 1964; Association Official, September 1964; Master Builder - Structures, September 1964; Chief Dispatcher, March 1966; Master Builder - Motive Power, June 1966; Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical & Master Model Railroader, October 1966.

As Master Model Railroader #18, Bill was not only the first MMR in the 7th Division, PNR, NMRA but also the first in the Pacific Northwest Region.



View taken during the Last Run of the Cariboo Central. Note the "pink" Squamish roundhouse - actually correct for the 1962 time frame!!



A view showing some of Bill's trackwork. Note the double-slip/three-way combination.